Gold Biscuits seized in Delhi

*53. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gold biscuits worth rupees one crore were seized in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, whether the gang responsible for such smuggling activities tas been apprehanded and prosecuted;

(c) whether the methods by which such smuggling activities were being carried on have been investigated;

(d) if so, what remedial action is being taken in the matter by Government; and

(e) what is the total amount of smuggled gold seized during the years 1986-87 and so far upto 31st March, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Presumably the Hon'ble Members are referring to the recent detection of gold made by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence at Delhi on 11th March, 1987. Facts of the case are as follows:—

On 11th March, 1987, the officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Delhi, intercepted one Shri Uttam Chand carrving a plastic bag near J Block Market, Ashok Vihar, Delhi. Examination of the bag resulted in recovery of 100 foreign marked gold biscuits of 10 tolas each. In the follow-up action, the residential premises of one Shri Vijay Kumar, Shri Bhuramal Jain and another place at Chandni Chowk were searched. As a result 200 foreign marked gold biscuits of 10 tolas each were recovered. In all 300 gold biscuits totally weighing 34.995 Kgs. valued at Rs. 92.4 lakhs were seized under the Customs Act, 1962. In this connection, five persons were arrested and remanded to judicial custody.

(c) and (d) Reports received by the Government and seizures made indicate that gold is smuggled into the country across our land borders, sea coast and through international airports by adopting several *modus operandi* involving concealment in baggage, cargo and on person. The anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country remain alert, particularly in the vulnerable areas, to prevent and detect smuggling of gold into the country through various means. Sophisticated anti-smuggling equipments are utilised in this task. Close co-ordination is maintained with all concerned agencies to the prevention and detection of the gold smuggling into the country.

(e) During the year 1986-87 (upto March), contraband gold valued at about Rs. 52 crores was seized all over India.

Study by International Monetary Fund

*54. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main conclusions of the study made by the International Monetary Fund officials regarding the overspending by the developing countries who are receiving help from the International Monetary Fund; and

(b) what is the reaction of Government in this regard so far as India is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Government are not aware of any study

by the International Monetary Fund regarding overspending by developing countries which had received assistance from the International Monetary Fund.

Loan melas during the Current Year

*55. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks have plans to conduct a number of loan melas during the current year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the banks take decisions in this regard in consultation with the State Governments; and

(d) the number of loan melas that are proposed to be conducted in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The public sector banks organise credit camps as a part of the overall measures undertaken by them to bring about accelerated credit assistance to weaker sections and such camps are held in various parts of the country primarily keeping in view the gap in the availability of credit to weaker sections and co-operation forth-coming from the local authorities.

(c) and (d) At national level, there is no formulation of any plan either State-wise or bank-wise for credit camps which are organised by the banks with the co-operation of local officials particularly the ones connected with the implementation of subsidy linked credit schemes. As such, it is not possible to indicate the number of credit camps likely to be held in West Bengal during the current year.

Denial of the Right to Family Pension

*56. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the right of family pension is denied to the women who marry Government servants after such Government servants retire under the plea that the marriages took place after retirement;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to repeal such rule, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. For the purpose of admissibility of family pension, the definition of 'family' include wife in the case of a male Government servant or husband in the case of a female Government servant, provided the marriage took place before retirement of the Government servant. The rationalisation of the definition of 'family' for the purpose of various benefits available to a Government servant is under consideration.

Programmes from the Bombay Doordarshan

*57. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay Doordarshan telecast its programmes in the regional language in Maharashtra;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 90 percent coverage in respect of news and other items is given to the Bombay viewer only; and